

BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD

PUBLIC NOTICE

ORDINANCE 15-2481 – AN ORDINANCE ENTITLED “ESTABLISHMENT OF STIGMA FREE COMMITTEE” OF THE REVISED GENERAL ORDINANCES OF THE BOROUGH OF BERGENFIELD.

was introduced at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bergenfield, in the County of Bergen, New Jersey, held on Tuesday, July 21, 2015, and will be further considered for final passage after public hearing at a regular meeting of the Mayor and Council to be held in the Executive Chambers, Bergenfield Municipal Center, 198 North Washington Avenue, Bergenfield, New Jersey on Tuesday, August 4, 2015 at 8:00 P.M. prevailing time, or as soon thereafter as the matter can be heard.

A clear and concise statement of this ordinance is to establish the formation of the “Stigma Free Committee,” including its parameters and duties, for the purpose of raising awareness of the disease of mental illness, as set forth in the ordinance.

A copy of this ordinance may be obtained without cost between the hours of 8:30 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. at the office of the Borough Clerk, 198 North Washington Avenue, Bergenfield, New Jersey.

Anne Dodd, RMC
Borough Clerk

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BE IT ORDAINED, by the Mayor and Council of the Borough of Bergenfield, County of Bergen and State of New Jersey as follows:

WHEREAS, The Borough of Bergenfield supports the designation of Stigma Free Zones in the municipality for the purpose of raising awareness of the disease of mental illness; and

WHEREAS, THE National Institute of Mental Health reports that 1 in 4 adults experience mental illness in a given year and 1 in 17 adults live with a serious mental illness such as schizophrenia, major depression or bipolar disorder; approximately 20% of youth ages 13 to 18 and 13% of youth ages 8 to 15 experience severe mental disorders in a given year; and

WHEREAS, the stigma associated with the disease of mental illness is identified as the primary reasons individuals fail to seek the help they need to recover from the disease; and

WHEREAS, promoting awareness that there can be no "health" without mental health will break down barriers and encourage residents of all ages to be mindful of their mental health and ask for help when needed; and

WHEREAS, establishing a Stigma Free Zone will raise awareness of resources and encourage residents to engage in care as soon as the need is identified so recovery can begin, hope is inspired and tragedies are avoided.

Establishment of Stigma Free Committee.

- A. There is hereby created a Stigma Free Committee consisting of up to nine (9) regular members.
- B. All regular members shall be appointed by the Mayor with the advice and consent of the Borough Council.
- C. All regular members shall serve for one (1) year terms commencing on January 1 of each year except for initial appointments made hereunder which shall expire on December 31, 2015. Vacancies shall be filled for unexpired terms only. All members shall serve without compensation.

Powers and Duties.

The Stigma Free Committee is hereby granted and shall have and exercise in addition to the other powers herein granted, all the powers necessary and appropriate to carry out and execute the purposes of this section, including but not limited to the following:

- (a) to supply information and assistance with mental health issues.

Severability All provisions of this Ordinance are severable. If for any reason, any provision of this Ordinance is held to be invalid, the validity of the remainder of the Ordinance shall not be affected.

Effective Date. This Ordinance shall become effective upon final approval and publication, pursuant to law, and upon completion of all outstanding cases.